

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
(317) 232-9855

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7670**

**BILL NUMBER: SB 267**

**DATE PREPARED:** Mar 1, 2001

**BILL AMENDED:** Mar 1, 2001

**SUBJECT:** Statewide Voter Registration File.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Chris Baker

**PHONE NUMBER:** 232-9851

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** ☒ **GENERAL**  
☐ **DEDICATED**  
☐ **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

STATE IMPACT	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
State Revenues			
State Expenditures		6,000,000	
Net Increase (Decrease)		(6,000,000)	

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) This bill requires the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office to maintain the statewide voter registration file so that the file is accessible by the Election Division and county voter registration offices through a secure connection over the Internet not later than July 1, 2004. It also Requires county voter registration offices to transmit required voter registration information to the Election Division over the Internet, in a manner and method prescribed by the Election Division, through a secure connection to the statewide voter registration file, not later than July 1, 2004. The bill requires the election division to format the file so that only the county voter registration office of a particular county is able to change data in the file for that particular county's voters. This bill also provides that the Election Commission is not required to provide direct public access to the statewide voter registration file over the Internet. The bill appropriates \$6,000,000 from the State General Fund to the Election Division beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2004, to assist counties and the Election Division to develop and implement the technical ability to transmit voter registration information over the Internet to the statewide voter registration file. It also repeals obsolete sections of the statute that establishes the statewide voter registration file.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2001.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (Revised) Currently, the Election Division of the Secretary of State maintains a temporary database which annually requires compilation. Any updates or error corrections

require a complete rebuilding of the database.

This bill, as amended, provides a \$6 M appropriation from the General Fund beginning in FY 2002 and ending in FY 2004 to the Election Division in order to assist county voter registration offices to develop the technical ability to transmit voter registration information over the Internet to the statewide voter registration file.

In order to comply with the bill's provisions, the Division would require a centralized repository database server to support the submission, management, and reporting of voter registration data. The system support, site hosting, and maintaining bandwidth connectivity would be ongoing expenditures. The cost for administration and support could vary depending if the administration/support staff were employed via a private contractor, or if the Division were authorized to hire the necessary staff.

The processing of submissions by counties of voter registration data could be performed by Election Division staff or handled by contract with an outside vendor.

#### **Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** (Revised) As amended, the bill requires counties to begin transmitting voter registration data over the Internet by July 1, 2004. Counties could experience start-up costs for an Internet browsing PC or workstation and a printer, and ongoing costs for Internet access fees. Quest Information estimates the cost could be \$6,400 to a county without any of the above components. In addition, approximately \$1,200 to \$1,500 in expenditures could be required if counties need software modifications in order to comply with the State repository/database.

The Election Division currently estimates one third of the counties would require all of the components above and could face expenditures of approximately \$8,000. Another third of counties have the equipment necessary, but lack Internet Access and could have expenditures ranging from \$1,200 to \$1,500. Roughly another third, including larger counties such as Marion, Lake, and Allen, have all of the components required to send data already and would require minimal expense.

The Association of Indiana Counties reports, with forty-nine out of ninety-two counties responding, seventeen counties currently have Internet Access. Counties not responding to the survey included: Allen, Boone, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Lake, Marion, and Vanderburgh.

The State of Indiana has offered in the past used PC's at a substantial discount to qualified entities. If a county were to qualify, and the PC acquired were able to accept Windows 95 software, potentially some expenditure could be saved.

#### **Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Indiana Election Division.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Counties.

**Information Sources:** Indiana Election Division, (317) 232-3939; Travis Worl, Association of Indiana Counties, (317) 684-3710.